

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PEKING 01404 120658Z
ACTION EA-06

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FM USLO PEKING

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AMEMBASSY TOKYO

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L PEKING 1404

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

NOFORN

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PINT PFOR CH TH

SUBJ: CHOU EN-LAI EXHIBITION FEATURES PHOTOS OF TENG

1. BEGIN SUMMARY. A CLOSED EXHIBITION ON THE LIFE OF PREMIER CHOU EN-LAI FEATURES 24 PHOTOGRAPHS OF TENG HSIAO-PING. A MOCK-UP OF CHOU'S WORKING STUDY INCLUDES A SIMULATED POLICY MEMORANDUM, QUITE LEGIBLE, DEALING WITH A 1974 DECISION ON OIL SALES TO THAILAND AND SUPPORT FOR THE THAI INSURGENCY.

2. FORMER AUSTRALIAN AMBASSADOR TO THE PRC FITZGERALD, RECENTLY VISITING IN A PRIVATE CAPACITY, WAS INVITED TO AN EXHIBITION ON THE LIFE OF PREMIER CHOU EN-LAI. CURRENTLY ON DISPLAY AT
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THE NATIONAL HISTORICAL MUSEUM IN PEKING, THE EXHIBITION IS NORMALLY CLOSED TO FOREIGNERS. (JOURNALISTS WHO HAVE REQUESTED ADMISSION TICKETS HAVE BEEN TURNED DOWN).

3. BRITISH EMBOFF WHO SPOKE WITH FITZGERALD PRIOR TO HIS DEPARTURE PASSED FOLLOWING OBSERVATIONS TO USLO IN STRICT CONFIDENCE.

4. THE EXHIBITION FEATURED A TOTAL OF 24 PHOTOGRAPHS DEPICTING TENG HSIAO-PING, MOST OF THEM DATING BACK TO THE LATE 1950S AND EARLY 1960S. ALL WERE FAVORABLE TO TENG, DRIVING HOME THE POINT THAT HE HAD ENJOYED A CLOSE WORKING RELATIONSHIP WITH PREMIER CHOU UP TO 1963. (THE EXHIBITION INCLUDED NO PHOTOGRAPHS FROM THE PERIOD 1963-1973, PRESUMABLY OUT OF A DESIRE TO SKIRT THE ISSUE OF TENG'S PURGE DURING THE CULTURAL REVOLUTION).

5. A MOCK-UP OF PREMIER CHOU'S WORKING STUDY INCLUDES A SIMULATED POLICY MEMORANDUM, CLEARLY LEGIBLE TO VIEWERS. THE MEMORANDUM, DATED IN 1974, ADDRESSED PRC POLICY VIS-A-VIS THAILAND IN THE AFTERMATH OF THE 1973 COUP. THE DOCUMENT PROPOSED PRC SALE OF PETROLEUM TO THAILAND AT CONCESSIONARY PRICES AND NOTED THAT THE ISSUE OF PRC SUPPORT TO THE THAI INSURGENCY WAS NOT LIKELY TO ARISE WITH THE NEW THAI GOVERNMENT. CHOU HAD UNDERLINED THIS PORTION OF THE DOCUMENT AND SCRIBBLED A MARGINAL "GOOD" BESIDE IT.
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